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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 28, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BETTY McCOLLUM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House or Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Erin Conaway, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Holy and merciful God, we come before You this morning, taking time to breathe in the grace and the bountiful love You lavish upon us through so many avenues we take for granted: the lilting of a bird's song, the array of colors from every budding bloom, the unadulterated joy of a child dancing, and, in this place, the trust of a Nation, constituents across the country who find hope in the representation they have in this Chamber, and the empowerment their hope gives to our Representatives to fulfill the call You, O God, have placed upon their lives.

Give us ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to feel Your loving presence and guidance as we courageously work to serve others.

Lord, you are the giver of dreams, and the author of real hope. In this quiet moment, we pray for a raucous peace to comfort us enough to listen and move us enough to dream, that dream that seems impossible and out of reach so that when we open our eyes and realize the dream is here, it will be to Your glory.

Help us to be agents of peace and empowerment, justice and mercy, freedom and dreams, for we pray in Your name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CONAWAY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Secretary be directed to request the House of Representatives to return to the Senate the bill (S. 1612) entitled "An Act to amend the penalty provisions in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes.", and that upon the compliance of the request, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make corrections in the engrossment of the aforesaid bill.

WELCOMING REVEREND ERIN CONAWAY

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, as a parent, there is no greater pride than the pride felt watching your children grow from being infants to being responsible adults. Suzanne and I are blessed to have four grown children who have grown into wonderful, responsible adults, and, in the case of three of them, seeing them become terrific parents themselves.

While I would like to brag about all four of our children, today's event dictates that I am limited to bragging on the young man who just delivered the morning's opening prayer. That young man is our son, Erin, who is associate pastor at South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. He is a graduate of Baylor University with a fine arts degree and a graduate of Truitt Seminary at Baylor University with a master of divinity degree.

More importantly, he is a man of deep faith in Jesus Christ as his personal savior. He is also the husband of Carmen Brassfield Conaway and father to daughter Alexandra and son Samuel.

In addition to being a wonderful son, husband and father, Erin is also a gifted writer and pastor. Our family was recently blessed when Erin performed the memorial services for my dad, his grandfather.

Suzanne and I are always proud of your accomplishments, but today we are particularly proud of seeing you opening this session of Congress and look forward to your bright future.

We love you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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PREPARE ALL KIDS ACT OF 2007

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, this week I introduce the House companion to Senator CASEY's Prepare All Kids Act of 2007. This bill is designed to help States expand their pre-K programs and child care services.

As this chart shows, we get the biggest bang for our education dollars by investing in our children before they even go to school. Estimates show that the return on investing in early care in education is between 17 to 18 percent annually. If this were a stock, all of Wall Street would be buying it.

The legislation is very helpful to the children we represent in our States. For example, more than one-quarter of a million 4-year-olds in New York State would be eligible for the programs created in this bill, including 100,000 children who would qualify for free pre-K. The future prosperity of our Nation rests on setting our children on a path for success early in life.

HONORING OUR TROOPS THIS
FOURTH OF JULY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as we approach the Fourth of July, I want to thank our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and across the world. It is because of their service that we are able to celebrate our freedom.

In my seven visits to Iraq and three to Afghanistan, I have seen firsthand the new greatest generation. Our coalition forces are stopping the terrorists overseas to protect American families at home. Osama bin Laden's right-hand man and al Qaeda spokesman Zawahiri has proclaimed that Iraq and Afghanistan are the central fronts in the global war on terrorism.

I look forward to honoring the sacrifices of our troops this Fourth of July weekend at the Celebration of Liberty service with Pastor Wendell Estep of First Baptist Church in Columbia.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

GENERAL PETRAEUS ADMITS
THAT CONDITIONS WILL NOT IMPROVE
IN IRAQ BY SEPTEMBER

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, conditions on the ground in Iraq are not getting any better. In fact, things are getting worse.

During a 48-hour period last week, 14 of our soldiers were killed, and then over the weekend another eight were

killed in one day. April and May were two of the most violent months for our troops since the beginning of the war. It is clear the President's troop surge or escalation plan is not working. In fact, last week General David Petraeus acknowledged there would not be any significant improvements in Iraq by September.

Why is that significant? Because that's when President Bush said we would be able to see if the plan was working. The fact is we won't know in September because it's not working, according to the President's own general.

Then this week, two respected Republican Senators, Senator LUGAR and Senator VOINOVICH, said the current policy is not working and a significant change is needed. The comments of these Senators, coupled with those of General Petraeus, should serve as a wake-up call to congressional Republicans. Join us in ending this war, bringing our troops home, and saving America's face.

DEMOCRATS PROMISED NOT TO
HOLD RECORDED VOTES OPEN

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Madam Speaker, less than 6 months ago, House Democrats promised not to hold recorded votes open to change the results. They went even further. They changed the House rules to prohibit this practice. But last night the Chair held a 2-minute vote open so that five Democrat Members could have their arms twisted, change their votes and pass the Udall amendment.

And what was this amendment? Democrats broke their promise for a provision that prohibits America from producing energy from our plentiful supply of shale, further demonstrating what a fraud the Democrats' energy policy is, a policy repeatedly preventing us from developing our own petroleum reserves.

Shame on the Democratic leadership for going back on their promise with such breathtaking speed. More importantly, shame on the Democrats for a policy that stops Americans from producing our own energy, for causing gasoline prices to continue to rise, and for making sure we are increasingly dependent on foreign oil.

VICE PRESIDENT CAN'T HAVE IT
BOTH WAYS WHEN IT COMES TO
HIM BEING A MEMBER OF THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, for the last 7 years, Vice President CHENEY has perfected the art of meaningful oversight and avoiding any accountability to the American people. But who would

have ever thought that such a defiance would lead the Vice President to the absurd, claiming that he is not a member of the executive branch. That's right, Cheney does not want to play by the established rules of safeguarding classified national information. He is now saying that he is not actually a member of the executive branch.

If the Vice President is not a member of the executive branch, shouldn't he be forced to turn over information to the congressional Democrats requested regarding his secret energy task force? After all, CHENEY used executive privilege as an excuse for his secrecy.

Also, why should the office of the Vice President receive funding through the bill that funds the executive branch? That bill is actually on the floor today, and the House Democrats will offer an amendment to remove funding for the Vice President's office from this bill. House Democrats are not going to support the Vice President's latest attempt to avoid any accountability to the American people.

HONORING JIM NUSSLE

(Mr. MCCRERY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCRERY. Madam Speaker, today, a good man and former chairman of the House Budget Committee will be honored by his colleagues. A portrait of Jim Nussle will be unveiled and displayed in the committee room where he held the gavel for 6 years.

Jim Nussle is a passionate man. He strongly believes that we are sent to Washington to be good stewards for taxpayers, and he was one of their best advocates. Under Jim's leadership of the Budget Committee, and for the first time in nearly a decade, we took a first step in reforming our mandatory, or entitlement, spending, the largest and least sustainable part of our budget, saving taxpayers nearly \$40 billion over the next years.

Jim also worked to reform the budget process itself and reached across the aisle to develop a bipartisan solution. He coauthored the Comprehensive Budget Process Reform Act in 1988 with Representative BEN CARDIN. He has also supported the legislative line item veto and earmark reform.

Given his experience, knowledge and commitment to public service, it is fitting that the President has selected Jim as his nominee for Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

VICE PRESIDENT HAS A PROBLEM
OF FIGURING OUT WHICH
BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT HE
BELONGS TO

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, we need a history lesson right here.

Article II, the executive powers shall be vested in the powers of the President of the United States. He shall hold